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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/418,647	10/15/1999	TREVOR K. BYLSMA	1400.4100202	9158

25697 7590 12/04/2003

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EXAMINER

FOX, JAMAL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2664

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/418,647

Applicant(s)

BYLSMA ET AL.

Examiner

Jamal A Fox

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 14, 20 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6-10, 15, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,389,464 to Krishnamurthy et al.

Referring to claim 1, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses a method for management of a network (col. 3 lines 62-67), comprising: receiving a new set of indicators corresponding to a node in the network (col. 4 lines 44-53, see the MIB files), wherein the new set of indicators includes functional characteristics (attributes of the device, col. 4 lines 44-53, here it is understood that the MIB files includes functional characteristics because a MIB is a SNMP compatible data structure that defines the functional groups and management objects of a unit or system) of the node; wherein each indicator of the new set of indicators corresponds to a particular functional characteristic (Web pages contain particular functional characteristics, Figures 4-29); storing the new set of indicators in a database (col. 4 lines 44-50), wherein the database includes sets of indicators corresponding to at least one additional node in the network (devices, col. 4 lines 27-32); and utilizing the database including the new set of indicators to perform

network management functions (col. 4 lines 44-53, see devices to be managed from the site server).

Referring to claim 6, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the method of claim 1, but does not explicitly teach wherein the set of indicators further includes physical characteristics of the node (Fig. 6, ip_address; Figures 8, 10-14, cornet 16 channel a/b serial switch; Fig. 17, null Driver, Parallel Driver, Async serial Port, Intelligent Async Serial Port).

Referring to claim 9, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the network is a communications network that includes one or more of Time Division Multiplexing, Frame Relay (Ethernet, col. 5 lines 55-59, col. 6 lines 26-30, col. 6 line 45, col. 7 lines 25-30, col. 7 lines 35-38 and col. 11 lines 5-10), asynchronous transfer mode, and wireless network formats (col. 4 lines 1-6).

Referring to claim 10, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses a method for communicating a set of characteristics of a node in a communication network, comprising: determining functional characteristics for the node (attributes of the device, col. 4 lines 44-53, here it is understood that the MIB files includes functional characteristics because a MIB is a SNMP compatible data structure that defines the functional groups and management objects of a unit or system); generating a set of indicators corresponding to the functional characteristics (col. 4, lines 43-53, here it is understood that the site server generates the indicators), wherein each indicator of the set of indicators corresponds to a particular functional characteristic (Web pages contain particular functional characteristics, Figures 4-29); and combining the set of indicators with physical

characteristic information of the node to produce the set of characteristics for the node (Fig. 6, ip_address; Figures 8, 10-14, cornet 16 channel a/b serial switch; Fig. 17, null Driver, Parallel Driver, Async serial Port, Intelligent Async Serial Port).

Referring to claim 15, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses a network management processor (Fig. 3, reference sign 12), comprising: a processing module (Fig. 3, reference sign 12); and memory (Fig. 3, reference sign 68) operable coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory includes operating instructions that cause the processing module to: store a received new set of indicators in a database (col. 4 lines 44-50), wherein the new set of indicators corresponds to a node in a network, wherein the database includes indicators corresponding to at least one additional node in the network (devices, col. 4 lines 27-32), wherein the new set of indicators includes functional characteristics of the node (attributes of the device, col. 4 lines 44-53, here it is understood that the MIB files includes functional characteristics because a MIB is a SNMP compatible data structure that defines the functional groups and management objects of a unit or system); wherein each indicator of the new set of indicators corresponds to a particular functional characteristic (Web pages contain particular functional characteristics, Figures 4-29); and perform network management functions based on the database including the new set of indicators (col. 4 lines 44-53, see devices to be managed from the site server).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2664

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 7, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnamurthy et al. in view of Rose et al.

Referring to claim 4, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the method of claim 1, but does not explicitly teach wherein each set of indicators includes indicators indicating functional support at multiple hierarchical levels within a node to which the set of indicators corresponds. Rose et al. discloses MIBs with multiple hierarchical levels in (pages 5-7, 10-14 and 16-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein each set of indicators includes indicators indicating functional support at multiple hierarchical levels within a node to which the set of indicators corresponds because MIBs are hierarchical data structures.

Referring to claim 7, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the method of claim 1, but does not explicitly teach wherein performing network management functions further comprises determining routing paths in the network. Rose et al. discloses routing tables defined by MIBs on (page 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein performing network management functions further comprises determining routing paths in the network because routing table entries are defined in MIBs.

Referring to claim 18, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the network management processor of claim 15, but does not explicitly teach wherein each set of indicators

Art Unit: 2664

includes indicators indicating functional support at multiple hierarchical levels within a node to which the set of indicators corresponds. Rose et al. discloses MIBs with multiple hierarchical levels in (pages 5-7, 10-14 and 16-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein each set of indicators includes indicators indicating functional support at multiple hierarchical levels within a node to which the set of indicators corresponds because MIBs are hierarchical data structures.

Referring to claim 19, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the network management processor of claim 15, but does not explicitly teach wherein performing network management functions further comprises determining routing paths in the network. Rose et al. discloses routing tables defined by MIBs on (page 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein performing network management functions further comprises determining routing paths in the network because routing table entries are defined in MIBs.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnamurthy et al.

Referring to claim 8, Krishnamurthy et al. discloses the method of claim 1, but does not explicitly teach wherein performing network management functions further comprises configuring path endpoints in the network. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

have included configuring path endpoints in the network because the configuration of system-wide parameters is disclosed in (col. 10 lines 48-58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for TDM, Frame Relay, ATM and a number of wireless formats, does not reasonably provide enablement for a communications network that includes one or more of Time Division Multiplexing, Frame Relay, asynchronous transfer mode, and wireless network formats. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The specification does not provide enablement for TDM and wireless network formats, Frame Relay and wireless network formats, and ATM and wireless network formats.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 13, 14, 20 and 21 are allowed.

8. Claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. 22202, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamal A. Fox whose telephone number is (703) 305-5741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (703) 305-4366. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9315 for After Final communications.


Application/Control Number: 09/418,647
Art Unit: 2664

Page 9

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

J.A.F.

Jamal A. Fox



WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600